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Hunting

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Nevada

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Regulations You Should Know

Species - Ducks (including mergansers), dark geese (including white-fronted and Canada geese), coots, gallinules, and snipe ONLY may be hunted. All other species of wildlife are protected and may not be killed.

Season - Hunting on the refuge is open only during waterfowl season as established for the State of Nevada.

Licenses - All hunters 12 years of age or older must possess a valid Nevada hunting license. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Waterfowl hunters 12 to 65 years of age must possess a signed State Duck Stamp. Waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older must also possess a signed Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp). Because these licenses and hunting stamps are not available in Ruby Valley be sure to buy them in advance.

Reservations - No reservations or special refuge permits are needed. The refuge is open to hunting daily in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations.

Hunt Boundaries - No Dike Hunting. The open hunting area includes the area as posted from *50 feet South* of the Brown Dike south to the White Pine County Line. Then in White Pine County, the springhead area from the county road to the marsh edge is open as posted. For public safety, a no-hunting zone is posted in the immediate vicinity of the Main Boat Landing. *Refer to map.*

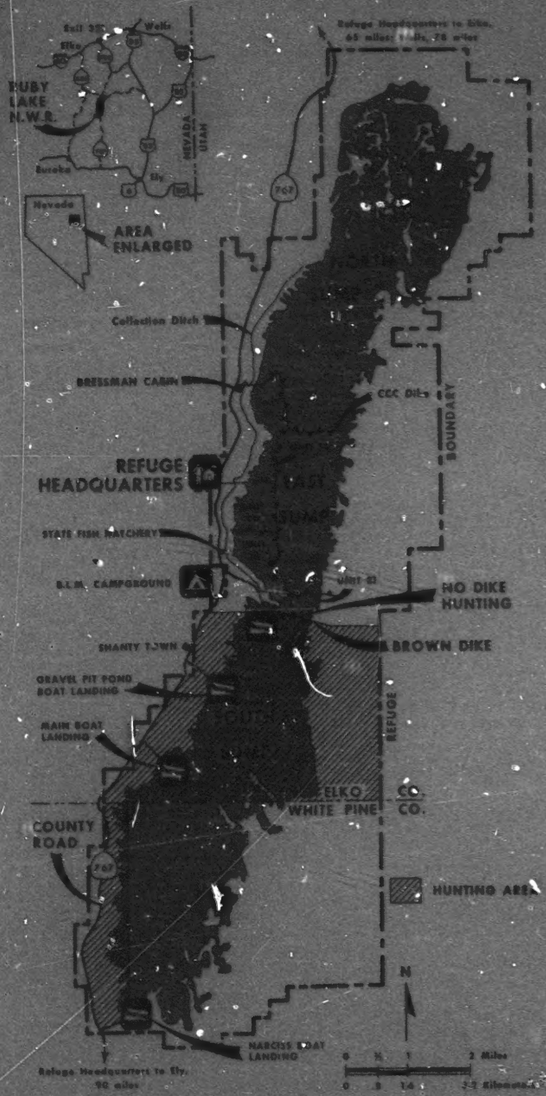
Access - Vehicle and boat access to the marsh hunt area is from the Brown Dike road, Gravel Pit Pond Boat Landing, and the Main Boat Landing. Walk-in and boat access only is provided to the east side of the hunt area. Walk-in access only is allowed to the west-side springheads in White Pine County.

Blinds and Personal Property - Hunters may use portable hunting blinds and temporary blinds constructed of natural vegetation. All decoys and other personal property must be removed from the refuge at the close of each day.

Helpful Hunting Hints

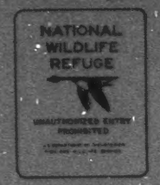
- ☐ The use of dogs is not mandatory, but highly encouraged. Successful hunters usually have a dog to retrieve downed birds that otherwise might not be found.
- ☐ Decoys and calls should be used to bring birds into ideal shooting range. When setting out decoys, place the outer decoy at 40 yards from the blind. This will help you judge when to shoot and result in fewer crippies and more birds in your bag.
- ☐ Be a sportsman and respect the rights of other hunters afield. When entering or leaving the field try to avoid flaring birds which are working another hunter's set-up.
- ☐ No hunting is allowed FROM the Brown Dike. The hunting zone begins on the South side of the borrow ditch 50 feet from the Dike. This helps insure a safe visit for all refuge visitors travelling or fishing from the dike.
- ☐ Although steel shot is not required here, we do encourage its use if you have access to it. Lead shot deposited in marshes, wetlands and bays by waterfowl hunters causes an estimated 2 million ducks, geese, and swans to die every year from lead poisoning. Support the conversion of lead to non-toxic shot for waterfowl hunting.

The refuge covers a variety of habitats including rough, uneven terrain, deep waters, dense stands of bulrushes (tules), wet meadows and ditches, etc. Rainfall can make roads and fields muddy and slippery, making them more difficult to negotiate. Hunting difficulty varies by area and hunters should examine their own abilities and limitations before using the refuge. Handicapped persons should hunt with a partner and consult with the refuge manager for suggestions for hunting the area safely.



Signs Protect Vistors and Resources

Millions of people visit National Wildlife Refuges every year. Millions! The impact of humanity descending upon refuges, if not regulated in part, can degrade these wildlands. Signs grant or restrict certain activities to provide optimum freedom for visitors while also protecting refuge elements from undue human abuse. Please respect the following signs:



This sign delineates the refuge boundary. The refuge is behind this sign. You may enter the refuge only on designated access routes.

Motor vehicle and foot traffic are allowed on this route. No shooting from or across the dike or road.

This area is closed to ALL entry. No hunting, fishing, boating or sightseeing is permitted. No roads or trails are open to the public. Closed areas are set aside to protect wildlife resources from disturbance by people or for public safety reasons.

This sign is posted at the Narciss, Gravel Pit Pond, Brown Dike and Main Boat landings. No boats of any kind may be stored on the refuge between January 1 and March 31.

The area behind this sign may be hunted for ducks, dark geese, coots, gallinules and snipe.

This sign is used on the back of a Public Hunting Area sign along the county line and on the east side of the hunt area in White Pine County. A No-Hunting Zone is also posted around the Main Boat Landing. Do not hunt or retrieve behind this sign, except that retrieval of downed birds is permitted within the Main Boat Landing area.

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Welcome to Ruby Lake

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge lies within a closed drainage basin in Ruby Valley of northeastern Nevada. The refuge is 65 miles southeast of the town of Elko and lies along the eastern flank of the rugged and scenic Ruby Mountains at an elevation of 6,000 feet above sea level. The 37,630-acre refuge consists of marshes, open ponds and islands, bordered by wet meadows and grass and sagebrush-covered uplands.

An Important Nesting Area for Canvasbacks and Redheads

The refuge is strategically located along migration corridors serving both the Pacific and Central Flyways, and is an important waterfowl nesting area. The refuge is particularly important to nesting canvasback and redhead ducks. Most of the nesting occurs on the South Sump, where the refuge supplies some of the finest nesting habitat for those species in Western America. In good years the refuge has produced 5,000 canvasbacks and 4,000 redheads.

4,400 Acres Open to Sport Hunting for Waterfowl

The 4,400 acre portion of the South Sump *north* of the county line has been opened to limited waterfowl hunting. Because of its shallower habitat and smaller water area, hunters are now exposed to more dabbling ducks such as mallards, pintails, gadwall, wigeon and teal.

Also, the springheads along the entire west side of the South Sump will remain open to hunting. This area generally provides excellent late season jump shooting for dabblers.

The 4,300 acres of South Sump in White Pine County is no longer open to hunting. This closure protects the local nesting population of canvasbacks and redheads which concentrate on the south end of the South Sump in late summer and fall. It also protects the few hens and young which are still flightless at the beginning of the hunting season.

Please refer to the map in the leaflet for the location of the refuge hunting area.

Swans Need Your Help

The once endangered trumpeter swan, originally a transplant from the Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Montana, is found on the refuge and several pairs nest and winter here every year.

The whistling swan are also spring and fall visitors to the marsh. These majestic birds feed in the hunting area as well as in other areas of Ruby Valley. To protect these from being shot by mistake the entire valley is closed to hunting of the much smaller snow and Ross's geese. Only the Canada and white-fronted geese may be hunted. As in all hunting, learn to identify your target. The popular waterfowl identification guide, "DUCKS AT A DISTANCE" is available, free of charge from the refuge. Request a copy by writing to the refuge or stop by the office and pick one up.

Items of Interest

Accommodations for refuge visitors are available in Elko, Wells, and Ely. Gas and limited supplies are available in Ruby Valley. No camping is permitted on the refuge but camp sites are available at the Bureau of Land Management campground near the fish hatchery and at Forest Service campgrounds in the Humboldt National Forest. Primitive camping is allowed on public land west of County Road 767 unless otherwise posted.

For More Information, Write:

Refuge Manager
Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Ruby Valley, Nevada 89833
Phone (702) 779-2237

Ruby Lake National Wildlife Range is one of a system of refuges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of wildlife. The financial base for this system was established in 1934 through the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act. This Act requires waterfowl hunters to purchase an annual migratory bird or "duck stamp." Funds collected from duck stamp sales have been used to purchase numerous refuges that provide habitats necessary to sustain a variety of wildlife for both hunters and non-hunters to enjoy.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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